

Message Text

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17 11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 250708Z OCT 73
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8533
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJ: MILITARY MINISTERS

REF: HONG KONG 10597

1. IN LIGHT OF PAI HSIANG-KUO'S REPLACEMENT BY A CIVILIAN (REFTEL), THE FATE OF OTHER MILITARY MINISTERS AT THE UPCOMING NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS HAS BEEN BROUGHT INTO QUESTION. THE MOST VULNERABLE WOULD APPEAR TO BE PLA MEN, LIKE PAI, WHO WERE APPOINTED PRIOR TO LIN'S FALL AND FAILED TO MAKE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THIS CATEGORY INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL MINISTER SHA FENG AND POSSIBLY COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER YANG CHIEH--TAGGED BY TAIWAN SOURCES AS A FORMER MILITARY MAN. SHA HAS APPEARED RECENTLY WITH HIS TITLE, BUT SO DID PAI IN THE WEEKS PRIOR TO HIS REPLACEMENT. ANOTHER PLA MAN IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IS CHIEN CHIH-KUANG, THE METALLURGICAL MINISTER SINCE NOVEMBER 1971.

2. OTHER MILITARY MINISTERS NOT ON THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ARE
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WANG MENG (SPORTS), CHANG WEN-PI (WATER POWER) AND FAN TSU-YU

(COMMERCE). THEY, HOWEVER, SEEM LESS VULNERABLE--THE LATTER TWO BECAUSE THEY WERE APPOINTED ONLY WITHIN THE LAST YEAR.

3. CIVILIANS WAITING IN THE WINGS INCLUDE SIX FORMER MINISTERS WHO DID MAKE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE: TAN CHEN-LIN (AGRICULTURE STAFF OFFICE), CHANG LIN-CHIH (COAL INDUSTRY), LIU WEI (SECOND MACHINE BUILDING VICE MINISTER), WANG CHEN (STATE FARMS AND LAND RECLAMATION), YAO YI-LIN (COMMERCE), AND WANG CHENG (FOURTH MACHINE BUILDING).
DEAN

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